



**Kurt E. Floren**  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

### **Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures**

*12300 Lower Azusa Road  
Arcadia, California 91006-5872  
<http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>*

**Robert G. Atkins**  
Chief Deputy

April 5, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE (FOREST SERVICE) TO PROVIDE CONTROL  
OF THE INVASIVE WEED, ARUNDO (*Arundo donax*) IN THE ANGELES  
NATIONAL FOREST  
(Fifth District) (3-Votes)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve an amendment to the attached agreement with the Forest Service extending the term from April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006.
2. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to sign the amended agreement.
3. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department (ACWM) to extend the term of the Agreement for up to an additional two years.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Arundo, also known as "Giant Reed", is a highly invasive weed well known for degrading sensitive habitat. The Forest Service requested the expertise of ACWM to remove and treat infestations of arundo on Forest Service-controlled lands within the County, specifically in the upper Santa Clara River, and San Francisquito and Soledad Canyons.

The current \$93,000 agreement expires March 31, 2005. The Forest Service has asked ACWM to continue the work for an additional year, and possibly beyond.

### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This agreement supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal 3, *Organizational Effectiveness*, and Goal 4, *Fiscal Responsibility*. ACWM will respond to the request for invasive weed control with a highly efficient and experienced team of County employees.

ACWM's fiscal capacity is strengthened as a result of the Forest Service's willingness to reimburse ACWM for its expertise in safely and effectively controlling invasive weeds for the protection of biodiversity in our natural areas.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Reimbursement for invasive weed control services will be made to ACWM by the Forest Service.

This contract is 100% revenue offset. There is no change to ACWM's net County cost.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

One mission of ACWM is to help prevent the establishment and reduce the spread of harmful or invasive weeds.

The terms of the Amended Agreement shall be for the period commencing April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006.

The Agreement has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

It is anticipated that the invasive weed control services will be performed by County employees only. In the event that specialized equipment is needed, ACWM will meet the specific equipment requirements through competitive bid solicitation (low bidder) of private contractors.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The Agreement will allow ACWM to use its expertise in the area of vegetation management to help a federal resource agency with a difficult invasive weed that is significantly impacting a sensitive riparian habitat. This activity will not negatively affect any current ACWM projects.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Approval of the recommended action would allow ACWM to continue a relationship with a federal resource agency that administers lands which affect many cities within the County. ACWM has become a recognized authority on the control and management of harmful vegetation and is being asked to help with the control of an invasive weed. That control will benefit the residents of the County and the quality of the environment.

Request that the three (3) copies of the Agreement submitted to your Board be returned to ACWM for my signature.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Floren  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

KEF:RBS:JH:rms

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel